

## Minutes of the HPWA Annual Meeting on August 17, 2020

*Draft copy*

Recorded by Geri Williams

Zoom meeting hosted by Beth Sobiloff, Board member and Webmaster

### **Board Members attending:**

Don Williams, President

Phil Angell, Vice President

John Foye, Treasurer

Melissa Ferretti

Brian Harrington

Jack Kedian

Ramona Krogman

Paula Kuketz

Jerry Levine

Martha Sheldon

Beth Sobiloff

Geri Williams

Jennifer Yaeger

A total of 41 members attended the meeting by Zoom

The meeting opened at 7pm with Beth Sobiloff welcoming all and asking for members to remain muted unless they are speaking to reduce background noise. Don welcomed everyone and thanked them for their participation and their support. Then he asked all to introduce themselves.

Don introduced Board members and went over a few of the HPWA accomplishments of the past years including our partnering with the Town of Plymouth to purchase two large parcels of land, the Condon Tract and the David E. Alper Nature Preserve, and put them into conservation protection. These undeveloped lands will protect the ground water and ponds in our watershed and provide recreation opportunities for all.

Brian Harrington, Chair of the **Nominating Committee**, thanked his committee members Jerry Levine, Patrice O'Connor, Phi Angell, John Foye and Joy Hurley, then he announced the candidates for office:

Don Williams for President for a term of 2 years

John Foye for Treasurer for a term of 2 years

Danielle Fusco for Secretary for a term of 1 year

As the candidates were uncontested, Brian asked Vice President Phil Angell to cast a vote for the ballot of officers on behalf of the membership. Phil gladly cast the vote to elect the nominees.

Brian Harrington then spoke as Chair of the **Bylaws Revision Committee** composed of himself, Phil Angell and John Foye. He described the changes and reasons for them that the committee proposed. They were advised by Linnea R. Michels, Esq. from the Legal Center for Non-Profits, who counseled them to have the membership elect the Board of Directors who would then elect the officers from among the directors. This gives the membership more control when they elect up to 15 directors.

The other major change to our bylaws removes the requirement to live in the watershed to become a member, anyone who supports the mission and work of HPWA can become a member.

After a few questions and discussion, a vote to approve the new bylaws was taken by voting through the chat function. The vote to adopt the bylaws was unanimous with 23 yes votes.

Treasurer John Foye gave a **financial report**:

The HPWA account had a balance of \$16,532 on June 30,2020. During the month of July there were expenses of \$1606 for water tests, YMCA Campership, website fee and other expenses. There was income from dues of \$1714 and Watershed Management Plan donations of \$3441 for total deposits of \$5,155.

The ending balance as of July 31,2020 was \$20,081.

John also reported there have been donations of \$4910 for the Watershed Management Plan through Facebook, which takes some time to process.

Committee Chairs and Board Members gave brief reports on what they and their committees have been doing and what volunteers can do to help.

Don gave a PowerPoint presentation to review the cyanobacteria bloom in Great Herring Pond. He described what he and the HPWA Water Quality committee have done since July 18<sup>th</sup> when he was notified by the Town that a toxic cyanobacteria bloom caused them to close the Pond.

Jerry Levine had larger signs like the town posted made and He and Don placed them at the State boat ramp and all the community swimming areas around the Pond to warn people of the risks the pond water posed. Don patrolled the Pond in his boat to warn swimmers, boaters and fisherman of the potential risks. He and Geri took Kim Tower around the Pond examining the water and Kim showed Geri how to take samples to examine with a fluorometer and microscope. Geri sent photos taken with the Microscope to Hilary Snook, an EPA specialist in cyanobacteria, who identified the cyanobacteria as microcystin which produces toxins. Don provided frequent updates on the cyanobacteria situation to members and friends via posts on HPWA's Facebook page and Website and emails. Many people read these updates and have sent contributions to fund HPWA's share of the cost of a water management plan we hope to have funded at Town Fall Meeting and start the research right away to determine the source of the phosphate pollutants coming into the pond water and how we might be able to limit them.

Don also gave some tips that residents can easily do to help limit phosphate: don't fertilize near the pond; pick up pet waste; don't put yard waste into the pond; pump out your septic system every 3-5 years, cesspools more often.

Don ended by answering questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12 pm after Don thanked Beth for hosting the meeting and Ramona for helping.